

## JAIL FACILITIES

### ***Introduction***

This Plan element projects needs for jail facilities.

### ***Existing Facilities***

The Sheriff's Office uses two different jail facilities to house most county prisoners. A defined level of mostly pre-trial inmates are held at the county jail, located in the government center campus. Most other prisoners are held at the Riverside Regional Jail facility in Prince George County.

*Chesterfield County Jail:* The existing jail was constructed in several phases. Jail staff refers to jail buildings by letter. Building A was constructed in 1961-62, and has had four subsequent additions. It is the oldest existing facility, and includes inmate housing, jail administration, magistrates' offices, facilities for processing arrests, and jail infrastructure (kitchen, laundry, and control room). Building B was constructed in 1980 and until recently housed inmates. Building C was constructed in 1994 and also houses inmates. Building C is designed on a pod system -- a design preferred by the Sheriff's Office.

Building A is in very poor condition. Building B was recently demolished for the jail renovation project. Building C is in good repair. There are severe limitations with existing jail support facilities. The overall layout of the jail is labor intensive to operate and potentially unsafe to police officers, magistrates, deputies, and inmates.

The Virginia Department of Corrections places jail capacity at 250. The space per inmate is not up to current state standards. Current standards require 70 square feet per person for the first inmate and 45 square feet for each additional inmate in a cell. The current jail offers less than 18 square feet per inmate (Mosely, Harris and McClintock Jail Conditions Study, August 2000). The Study also demonstrates that the current jail does not meet state standards for space in day rooms and accessory spaces.

With the exception of Building C, jail facilities are in poor condition, and do not meet the needs of the Sheriff's Office, the magistrates, police officers, or inmates. There is clearly a need for improved jail facilities. Additionally, the overcrowding problems are not just confined to inmate areas. There is inadequate space for jail infrastructure, processing inmates, offices and meeting rooms, and safe passage of deputies and prisoners. The scattered nature of the jail operations areas also adds time to the administration of the facility. An improved facility with more space and a better design would bring greater efficiency and safer conditions to the Sheriff's deputies, magistrates and police officers. It is necessary for the county to maintain a safe, efficient local jail. The current situation is untenable for all users of the jail. The time and energy of public safety personnel is spent working around a facility that does not meet their basic needs. A better-designed facility would increase the efficiency of all the public safety personnel.

*Jail Replacement Project:* A bed-for-bed replacement for Buildings A and B is funded and under construction. This project will not increase rated capacity, but will improve inmate processing functions (intake, booking, and lockup), support areas, and security. Support

areas will be located on the ground floor of the new facility, with inmate areas located above. The new facility will improve "program space" for various inmate programs.

*Riverside Regional Jail:* The Riverside Regional Jail (RRJ) is a shared jail facility. RRJ opened in 1997 and is jointly operated by Chesterfield County and six other local jurisdictions. RRJ has a rated capacity for 736 inmates. The average daily population (ADP) for Chesterfield's portion of the facility was 235 inmates for fiscal year 2000. At the end of fiscal year 2002, ADP had increased to 511 inmates. Typically, inmates are sent to Riverside following trial and sentencing, unless they are serving short sentences, or qualify for participation in a county program such as work release or home incarceration.

As part of the inter-jurisdictional agreement for RRJ, once ADP exceeds capacity an expansion process is automatically triggered. This process has been triggered, and an expansion is currently in the planning stages. After expansion, RRJ will have an ultimate design capacity for 1,368 prisoners. The future capacity needs of RRJ are difficult to estimate, since future prisoner populations will depend on the jail resources and future prisoner levels of seven different jurisdictions. The Sheriff's Office estimates that even with expansion, RRJ could reach full capacity within five years, requiring additional facilities.

### ***Level of Service***

The primary level of service indicators for the jail facilities include: ADP for each month, the annual number of intakes and releases for the jail, and the number of probable cause hearings held by the magistrates. Each of these indicators affects required jail space.

*Average Daily Population:* Monthly average ADP of the county jail has increased from 265 inmates in 1990, to 307 inmates in 2002. At the end of fiscal year 2002, ADP was 314 inmates. This represents an average yearly increase of 1.6 percent, which is slower than population growth during the same period (2.8 percent per year).

*Intakes and Releases:* "Intakes" represents the number of individuals admitted to the jail over the course of the calendar year. "Releases" represents the number of individuals released from the jail over the course of a year. Intakes and releases have increased an average of 3.4 percent per year since 1990. Staff handled about over 20,000 intakes and releases in the year 2002, compared to 15,000 in 1990.

*Probable Cause Hearings:* Probable cause hearings are performed by the magistrates to determine whether probable cause exists for the arrest of an individual, resulting in the issuance of a warrant or a summons. Probable cause hearings have increased an average of 7.5 percent per year since 1990, from about 13,700 in 1990 to almost 23,900 in 2002.

**Chesterfield Jail Level of Service Indicators (Background/Analysis)**

Year	Population	Intakes	Releases	Probable Cause Hearings
1990 (part year)	265	7,571	7,525	13,658
1995	438	9,162	8,450	14,384
2000	334	9,259	9,355	21,565
2001	305	11,131	11,120	21,650
2002	307	10,277	9,997	23,857

***Findings***

A Community Based Corrections Plan was completed in 2000, which outlined the existing jail situation, needs for the future, and recommendations to manage the county's growing inmate population. Estimates for future needs to house inmates are as follows:

Year	Projected ADP	Jail Beds Needed
2005	704-730	880-912
2010	835-887	1,044-1,109
2015	1,044	1,305
2020	1,201	1,502
2025	1,358	1,698

*Estimated ADP and jail bed needs represent total numbers, without respect to whether they are located in Chesterfield County or at the Riverside Regional Jail facility. As of March, 2003, combined ADP of the Riverside Regional and Chesterfield County jails reached 887.*

Short-term jail facility needs through the year 2005 should be accommodated by the bed-for-bed county jail replacement project and planned expansions at the Riverside Regional Jail. Long-term facility needs will require additional jail construction. Part of this need may be met by additional out-of-county facilities, such as the Riverside Regional Jail and/or other potential future facilities. However, in-county jail space needs will also continue to increase. This need cannot be fully met in the long-term by the county jail. For this reason, there will be a clear need for more jail space after the year 2005.

***Locational Criteria***

Where possible, the jail, magistrates' offices, and police property facilities should be co-located, to allow police officers to go to one location to complete an arrest and drop off evidence. Dispersed facilities increase the time it takes for police officers to process arrests and evidence, resulting in longer times off patrol and increased overtime costs. Ultimately, there is logic to a public safety facility that would include all police and fire facilities (outside of precincts, stations, and training facilities) the jail and associated facilities, and the magistrates. Future jail facilities should be located as close as possible to the courts, and as far away from existing and planned residential areas as possible, while remaining on or near the county government complex.

## ***Recommendations***

### **2002-2007**

- a. **Jail Need Study:** Additional jail capacity needs should be determined through a study of existing and proposed jail capacity (in-county and out of county), updated inmate population projections, and an evaluation of potential jail capacity solutions.

### **2007-2022**

- b. **Jail Expansion/Construction:** Based on the findings of the Jail Need Study discussed above, additional facilities may be warranted and should be constructed. This construction should occur as early as possible, given planning and financial constraints and growing prisoner populations.